



For Immediate Release:

August 14, 2019

### **Important Notice: Response to the Malheur Enterprise**

As Director of Economic Development for Malheur County, I have been assigned the responsibility of Malheur County Enterprise Zone Manager. In this capacity, I am responsible, within the parameters of the law, to determine and negotiate for the allowance of property tax exemptions in the zone. While we wish all could qualify, that is not the case. Unfortunately, retail and service sector businesses are not eligible for the Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive.

Despite the reporting from the Malheur Enterprise, records will demonstrate that a pre-application for Bluebird Express Car Wash was never approved nor signed.

Finally, over the last six months as me and my staff have been subjected to endless phone calls, hostile emails at all hours of the day and unwelcome office visits, I have grown increasingly confused with the Malheur Enterprise's obsession with our county's economic development department. We do good work in Malheur County. We help businesses thrive and assist in providing Oregonians with new opportunities for employment. It's unfortunate that the Enterprise's months-long vendetta against our office seems to have no end in sight, but we will continue to do the work we have been hired to do with the highest professional and ethical standards.

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